

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Referring to FIG. 3, in another implementation, an apparatus 100 for remote inspection of portable tanks includes means for monitoring the contents of oxygen tanks distributed throughout locations (e.g., rooms) associated with a healthcare facility such as a hospital, assisted living facility, or a nursing home. However, in other implementations, the apparatus 100 includes means for monitoring the contents of oxygen tanks, or other similar portable tanks, distributed throughout one or more residential homes for assisting in healthcare. Typically, one or more oxygen tanks is located throughout a facility for treatment of the current occupants of the healthcare facility. In the example shown in FIG. 3, oxygen tanks are located in three hospital rooms 102, 104, 106. In hospital room 102, an oxygen tank 108 includes a gauge 110 for monitoring the contents of the oxygen tank, such as by measuring and displaying the pressure of contained oxygen. Similar to the gauge 50 used with the fire extinguisher 12 shown in FIG. 2, the gauge 110 is in communication with an electronic tether 112 connected to a docking station 114 that includes circuitry for transmitting a signal 118 to a remote central station 116 based on a signal 120 received from the electronic tether. The signal 118 received at the remote central station 116 communicates to hospital personnel information on the internal conditions of the oxygen tank 108 as measured by the gauge 110. For example, an alert is issued if the internal pressure the oxygen tank 108 falls below a predetermined threshold so that replacement of the tank or replenishment of the oxygen can be scheduled. Also similar to the apparatus 10 shown in FIG. 1, the signal 118 may also include information representing one or more external conditions (e.g., removal of the oxygen tank, obstructed access to the oxygen tank, etc.) associated with the oxygen tank 108. For example, a sonar module, enclosed in the docking station 114, similar to the sonar module described in conjunction with FIG. 2, transmits and receives ultrasonic signals through apertures 121 [[124]] to detect objects obstructing access to the oxygen tank 108, such as a bed 122. --

Please delete page 2, lines 1 and 2, which reads "pressured gases that are also monitored by gauges. "Fluid" as this term is used in this document refers to either a liquid or a gas".